

I wanted to inform you of some important news regarding our nation's efforts to create jobs here at home and boost our economy by expanding trade with other nations. Last week the U.S. and South Korea finalized a trade accord that, once passed by Congress and signed into law by the President, will increase U.S. exports in all sectors of the economy and add an [estimated](#) \$12 billion to U.S. GDP.

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With unemployment on the rise and the economic recovery in the U.S. stalled, free trade agreements like this one will provide a much needed boost for workers and small businesses in [California](#)

and across our nation. This is especially good news for Northern California, one of the richest agricultural regions in the world, which will benefit directly from

[increased agriculture exports](#)

to South Korea as a result of lower tariffs and the elimination of barriers to U.S. exports.

Increased access to the South Korea market is also essential to maintaining America's competitiveness in the global market. I am pleased that the agreement has been finalized, and it is my hope that Congress will approve it, along with the other two stalled trade pacts with Colombia and Panama, as soon as possible.